

## **REVISED MAP OF PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY ZONES IN CALIFORNIA (December 2010)**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (the Agencies) have completed the *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States* (Solar PEIS), which evaluates utility-scale solar energy development in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. The Agencies are preparing the Solar PEIS to reach goals established by Congress to make suitable BLM-administered lands available for solar energy development.

The attached map shows the locations and revised boundaries of BLM-administered lands in California that the BLM proposes to manage as solar energy zones (SEZs). The BLM defines SEZs as areas with few impediments to utility-scale production of solar energy where the BLM would prioritize solar energy and associated transmission infrastructure development under the two action alternatives (the solar energy development program alternative and the solar energy zone [SEZ] program alternative) evaluated in the Draft Solar PEIS.

Four study areas were identified in California: Imperial East, Iron Mountain, Pisgah, and Riverside East. The proposed area of the Imperial East SEZ has been reduced to 5,722 acres (23 km<sup>2</sup>) from 12,830 acres (52 km<sup>2</sup>); the proposed area of the Iron Mountain SEZ has been reduced to 106,522 acres (431 km<sup>2</sup>) from 109,642 acres (444 km<sup>2</sup>); the proposed area of the Pisgah SEZ has been reduced to 23,950 acres (97 km<sup>2</sup>) from 26,282 acres (106 km<sup>2</sup>); and the proposed area of the Riverside East SEZ has been increased to 202,896 acres (821 km<sup>2</sup>) from 202,295 acres (819 km<sup>2</sup>). These changes were generally made to facilitate the BLM's administration of the SEZ areas by having the boundaries conform to units of the Public Land Survey System. Additionally, the Imperial East SEZ boundaries were changed substantially to exclude lands along the All-American Canal not currently administered by the BLM.

In addition to the locations and revised boundaries of the four proposed SEZs in California, the attached map shows BLM-administered lands in California that (1) are not available for solar energy development currently (i.e., are currently off limits), (2) would continue to be available under the no action alternative, and (3) would be available for ROW application under the solar energy development program alternative.

### **Public Comment on the Draft PEIS and the Proposed Revised SEZs**

The Draft Solar PEIS is now available for public review, as detailed in the "Notice of Availability for the PEIS" published in the *Federal Register* on December 17, 2010 ([http://solareis.anl.gov/documents/docs/SolarDraftPEIS\\_NOA.pdf](http://solareis.anl.gov/documents/docs/SolarDraftPEIS_NOA.pdf)). The Notice provides information on dates, times, and locations of public meetings on the PEIS, and solicits public comments. Comments can be submitted using the Public Comment Form on the Solar PEIS website (<http://solareis.anl.gov/involve/comments/index.cfm>).

### **For More Information**

Information about the Solar PEIS is available on the Public Information website (<http://solareis.anl.gov>). In June of 2009, the Agencies released maps of 24 solar energy study areas in the six states and requested comments on those solar energy study areas. The comments received can be viewed on the website (<http://solareis.anl.gov/involve/mapcomments>). Copies of the revised SEZ maps for each of the six states and the associated geographic information system (GIS) data are available on the website (<http://solareis.anl.gov/maps>). For questions regarding the revisions to proposed SEZs, contact Linda Resseguie, BLM Washington Office, [linda\\_resseguie@blm.gov](mailto:linda_resseguie@blm.gov), 202-912-7337. For questions on use of the GIS data or maps, contact Brian Cantwell, Argonne National Laboratory, [bcantwell@anl.gov](mailto:bcantwell@anl.gov), 630-252-6802.



**Map Prepared December 2010**

Property of the U.S. Departments of Energy and the Interior for use in preparation of their Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States

